Whitewash

and we will find some way of getting in touch with you in that city (Baltimore)'" (R288).

The Report is correct but incomplete, for on the same date Oswald made the same request of the Socialist Workers' Party (19H577) The Report's authors considered it expedient to ignore the letter to the SWP. The reason for this omission and the reason for similarly false letters from Oswald to both historically antagonistic groups are worthy of consideration. In omitting all reference to the SWP, the Report gives the false impression of a non-existing affiliation with the Communist Party, else why should Oswald want to get in touch with the Baltimore-Washington branch? There is no evidence he planned such a move. He planned to go to Mexico and he went there. But why should Oswald have wanted to be in touch with both parties, antagonistic as they are, especially because of his own clear antipathy toward the Communist Party? One of the obvious reasons is that he was trying to penetrate them as some kind of agent. He could not have found political sympathy in or from both. It is this possibility that completely escaped the consideration of the authors of the Report and it is the most obvious consideration. Especially when thought of in the light of Oswald's relations with Cuban refugee groups, detailed elsewhere in this book, could this line of reasoning have led to a meaningful analysis and conclusion.

There was "no plausible evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald had any other significant contacts" with any of these groups, the Report concludes, evaluating the Oswald-initiated correspondence and requests for literature as "significant".

But Oswald's real attitude toward the Communist Party and the Soviet Union were well known to the Commission. He made no secret of them, and the Russian-speaking community in Fort Worth reported his dislike. Oswald himself was well recorded in letters, drafts of speeches and notes and, in fact, in public speeches. A number of such documents appear in Volume 16. They are part of the Commission's record.

Toward the end of their stay in New Orleans, the Oswalds went to Battles Wharf, Alabama, to participate in a seminar. He unburdened himself of his anti-Soviet feelings. Marina got a thank-you note from Robert J. Fitzpatrick, of the Society of Jesus, in which she was asked to convey "thanks to your husband, too, for his good report to our seminar. Perhaps we do not agree with him regarding some of his conclusions but we all respect him for his idealism ..." (16H243).

Oswald's hatred of the Communist Party and the Soviet Union exude from 150 consecutive pages of his notes in the same volume, as well as from other exhibits (16H283-434). For example, in Exhibit 97 (pp.422-3) he raged, "The Communist Party of the United States has betrayed itself! It has turned itself into the traditional lever of a foreign power to overthrow the government of the United States, not in the name of freedom or high ideals, but in servile conformity to the wishes of the Soviet Union ... (the leaders) have shown themselves to be willing, gullible messengers of the Kremlin's Internationalist propaganda ... The Soviets have committed crimes unsurpassed ... imprisonment of their own peoples ... mass extermination ... individual suppression and regimentation ... deportations ... the murder of history, the prostitution of art and culture. The communist movement in the U.S., personalized by the Communist Party, U.S.A., has turned itself into a 'valuable gold coin' of the Kremlin. It has failed to denounce any actions of the Soviet Government when similar actions of the U.S. Government bring pious protest." (Spelling improved.)

The Report quotes some of this as well as "... I hate the U.S.S.R. and Socialist system ..." (R399).

He also described himself as one with "many personal reasons to know and therefore hate and mistrust Communism ..." (16H442).

Even his oft-mentioned notes on Russia, widely discussed but unquoted in the press, are a narrative full of the kind of information intelligence agencies, including our own, seek about other countries, especially the Soviet Union. It includes such items as the location of an airport, the layout of a city, and all sorts of intimate details of the electronics factory in which he worked, including what it produced, its rate of production, the number of employees engaged in various pursuits and other such non-travelogue data.

It is abundantly clear that the Report distorts and misrepresents the Commission's information on Oswald's politics. It both says and implies the opposite of the truth. It pretends a man whose hatred of the Soviet Union boiled in his guts was a protagonist of that political system and perpetuates a lie foisted off on an innocent public by the police. In such a Report, by such a Commission, dealing with such a tragedy, this is unpardonable. Can there be any reason for this except a desire to "fool the public"? How many more people, here and abroad, were willing to accept what might have otherwise been unacceptable conclusions, how many were less critical than they might have been of the Commission, because of this pretense that Oswald had a "commitment to Communism", that he somehow was an agent of a hated political force? The Report concludes that he was serving no foreign government and that he was the agent of none (R21-2). But the Report repeats the false representation of Oswald's politics. The Commission instead should have inquired into <u>who</u> created and broadcast this deception and with what motives. As a result, the Commission's own motives are suspect.

Oswald's Marine Corps Service and First Passport

Only in the light of what Oswald's politics really were might any sense be made of his relations with various agencies of the U.S. Government, his trip to Russia, his defection, and his defection from his defection.

With but 43 days of his Marine Corps enlistment remaining, or three months if the penalties of the courts martial had been imposed (19H725), Oswald received a "hardship discharge" (19H676). This was a clear fraud about which neither the Marine Corps nor any other government agency ever did anything. Why?

There are 112 pages of photocopies of Oswald's Marine Corps record reproduced at one point in the 26 volumes of hearings and exhibits (19H656-768), but that record is incomplete in at least one major respect.

This series of documents shows Oswald enlisted on October 24, 1956. He was twice court-martialed, once for the dream offense of many ex-servicemen and once for an even more unusual departure from regulations. The second breach, in non-military language, consisted of swearing at a non-commissioned officer and assaulting him "by pouring a drink on him on or about 20 June 1958 at the Bluebird Cafe, Yamato, Japan". He was sentenced to a $55.00 fine and four weeks at hard labor, the second part waived on condition of good behavior. Less than six months earlier he had been court-martialed for accidentally shooting himself with his own loaded .22-caliber pistol, possession of which was prohibited. The generous Marines found this injury "was incurred in line of duty and not related to misconduct". His sentence was 20 days at hard labor, a $50.00 fine, reduction in rank to private, with the confinement at hard labor suspended for six months unless sooner vacated (19H663-4,682-4,692,-707-8,747-52).

Of Oswald's personal activity in the Marines, the Report states: "He studied the Russian language, read a Russian-language newspaper and seemed interested in what was going on in the Soviet Union." In the unit with which he served upon his return from the Far East, Oswald was referred to as "comrade" and "Oswaldskovitch" (R388). But his clearance to handle classified information was not